

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-8 are pending in the present application. The Examiner requires restriction of the present application to one of the following inventions:

Group I: claims 1-4, drawn to a fiber reinforced heat resistant sound absorbing material; and

Group II: claims 5-8, drawn to a production process of a fiber reinforced heat resistant sound absorbing material.

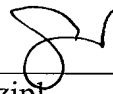
The Examiner contends that the inventions listed as Groups I (claims 1-4) and Group II (claims 5-8) do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features, i.e., a porous heat and sound resistant material comprising silicon carbide fiber and a binder which is heat and sound resistant to 1000 degrees C such as shown in abstract and examples (paragraph 0047) of a machine-generated English translation of JP 2001-010871.

Applicants elect the invention of Group I, claims 1-4, for further prosecution on the merits. The election is made without traverse.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in good condition for examination. Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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